



STATE OF VERMONT
Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

School Custodians of the Year Announced

MONTPELIER – Three long-time school custodians were recognized recently by the Vermont Department of Education and Vermont School Custodians and Maintenance Association (VSCMA) as Vermont's School Custodians of the Year.

In the fall of 2008, principals, superintendents, and school board chairs were invited to nominate professional school custodians for consideration of the first annual Vermont School Custodian of the Year award. In order to qualify, individuals had to exemplify the positive qualities of a hard-working, dedicated member of their school team and must have worked a minimum of five years full-time service in a Vermont school.

Nominations were received from a broad range of school, community and business members. Judging was completed anonymously by members of VSCMA and the Vermont Department of Education. Each nomination was reviewed and rated based on the nominee's strengths, accomplishments and contribution to his or her school team. The result was a three-way tie for 1st place. The judges decided to honor all three winners at the 52nd Annual School Custodians and Maintenance Conference on June 25, 2009 at Hartford High School.

The 2009 Vermont Custodians of the Year recipients are **Jim Garrow**, head custodian at the Enosburg Falls Middle/High School; **Woody La Mountain**, custodian for the Rumney Memorial School; and **Roni St. Armour**, Chief of Maintenance for the Castleton Hubbardton School District.

Mr. Garrow has worked at Enosburg Falls Middle and High School for over 12 years. In his nomination letter, Principal Edward Grossman, Ed.D, defined Jim Garrow as "the most dedicated, hard working and caring individual one could imagine, representing the true fabric of our school." Parent, Suzanne Hull added, "We here at Enosburg School District know the absolute gem we have in Jim Garrow, it is time the State of Vermont did also."

Mr. LaMountain has been a valuable member of the Rumney Memorial School community for over 20 years. Maribeth Domanski's nomination praised Mr. LaMountain's contribution to the school, "He helps in so many ways throughout the day and the children truly see him as their custodian, not just the caretaker of the building."

Ms. St. Armour started her career at Castleton Schools over 20 years ago. Principal Carole Pickett commended Ms. St. Armour's work. "Roni has a diligent work ethic, an exceptional understanding of her duties and responsibilities and an all around 'can do' attitude." Per Ron Ryan, Addison Rutland Supervisory Union Superintendent, "She exemplifies what this award stands for. We are truly fortunate to have Roni in our district."

As a result of the positive feedback, the VSCMA plans to make this an annual award.